

Will they attack Republicans for Republican extremism, a charge we have heard from the other side thousands of times since 1995 when Republicans took over the majority in Congress? Once again, will the media help them fix this image in the public's mind?

DEMOCRATS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE REPUBLICAN TAX RELIEF PACKAGE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, why is it so difficult for the other side to accurately describe the Republican tax relief package? Do we need to offer a prize to the first Democrat to acknowledge that we set aside \$2 for Social Security and Medicare for every \$1 of tax relief.

Do we need to call 60 minutes and ask them to do a story on the first Democrat to admit that our budget contains \$2 trillion in debt reduction over the next 10 years.

Do we need to have a CBO analyst conduct seminars in their offices in order to prove that our budget sets aside 100 percent of retirement surplus for Social Security and Medicare?

Do we need to hire interns fresh out of college to draw a picture of the Social Security lock box in order to illustrate the concept of locking away the Social Security surplus?

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, what does it take?

Day after day I hear the exact same line, the same false rhetoric to describe a Republican proposal that does not exist. Two years ago, it was Mediscare, and now this. It is truly sad.

BALANCED BUDGET AND PAYING DOWN THE NATIONAL DEBT: DREAMS COME TRUE

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress about 8 years ago, I had a dream of a balanced budget. That dream has now come to reality. And then, I had a dream that maybe we could pay down our national debt, and that is happening also.

We should be proud of what we are doing with our budget. But there are some problems and some things that could happen along the way which might make us get off track. Let us remember that we got to the balanced budget because we limited spending, reformed welfare, and made our government operate more efficiently. If we allow spending to move out of control, if we discard the caps, we will dispose of the surplus not in tax relief, not in paying down the debt, but in a bigger Federal Government.

The debate which we are going to have about tax relief should include a

debate on spending controls and on debt reduction.

CLASS WARFARE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, tax cuts for the rich. How often have you heard it from the Democrat party? Their big battle cry of class warfare.

Well, let us look at who is the rich. As I look at the tax package, the tax reduction package, who is going to benefit? Well, you might be rich if you want to save for your children's education. You might be rich if you have two incomes in your household. You might be rich if you want to have health care insurance.

You might be rich if your company or union contributes to a pension fund. You might be rich if you save for your retirement. You might be rich if you have a wedding ring in your future. You might be rich if you have saved money and want to be in a position to pass it on to your children when you die.

You might be rich if you are a senior who wants to continue working after the age of 65. You might be rich if you care for a senior in your home, and you might be rich if you have a child in daycare.

The tax reduction package is aimed specifically at helping people who fall into these categories. The marriage tax relief, estate tax relief, health care tax credit. All of this is designed for middle America.

It is a shame that the President and the Democrat party want to bring a tax reduction debate down to class warfare.

DO-NOTHING DEMOCRATS

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the do-nothing Democrats are at it again.

First, the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) let the Washington Post in on his strategy to do nothing and take the Democrats out of the legislative process. Now we find out that the Democrat leadership and Education Secretary Riley have been working feverishly behind the scenes to stop the education bill that will be considered later today because of their politics.

The Democrats are divided and confused. The do-nothing Democrats have become the have-nothing party. They have no ideas; they have no solutions. They only have partisan, risky, political schemes.

While Democrats fight among themselves, the Republican majority is united in its commitment to work overtime on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, while the Democrats did nothing, we passed Social Security

lockbox legislation to ensure retirement security for our seniors. While the Democrats did nothing, we passed ballistic missile defense to protect our national security. While the Democrats did nothing, we passed the Y2K liability reform. While the Democrats did nothing, we will pass education reform today that puts better qualified teachers in the classrooms. And while the Democrats do nothing in the very near future, Republicans will pass real tax reform for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, history will regard this Congress as one of the most productive in recent times. These same historians will report that we did all of these great things without any help whatsoever from the do-nothing Democrats.

WHO OWNS THE BUDGET SURPLUS?

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the President said something recently that captures perfectly the attitude of liberals when it comes to their high-tax agenda. While in Buffalo, New York, the President spoke about what should be done with the projected budget surpluses over the next 15 years. He said, we could give it all back to you and hope you spend it right. But, hope you spend it right. Excuse me? What exactly does the President mean when he says hope you spend it right. It is the budget surplus, which is nothing more than a tax overpayment. It does not belong to Washington. It does not belong to politicians. It does belong to the people who sent that money to Washington in the first place.

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It belongs to the taxpayers. They earned it. It belongs to them. Yes, they can be trusted to spend it any way they want.

The idea that the Federal Government, of all things, should be trusted to spend money better than the people who earned it is simply mind boggling.

WHY ARE TAX CUTS THREAT TO BUDGET, BUT NEW SPENDING IS NOT?

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the other side. It is a simple question, and I guess that I will not get an answer, it is so simple.

My question is this: Why is a tax cut a threat to our balanced budget but additional spending is not?

Whenever the Democrats propose new spending programs, which is just about every day Congress is in session, not a word is spoken about what that will do to the deficit.

No mention is made of fiscal discipline or of tough choices that have to

be made to get our fiscal house in order. But as soon as tax cuts are offered by the tax cutting party, that is the Republican Party, of course the other side immediately pulls out their half-serious arguments about blowing a hole in the deficit and about how Democrats have been the party of fiscal discipline all these years. In a word, it is nonsense. Spending good; tax cuts bad. That is their world view, and their rhetoric reflects it.

So, again, I ask the question: Why are tax cuts a so-called threat to our balanced budget, but new spending is not?

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LANDING ON THE MOON

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on a lighter note, today, I think we ought to pause to remember the triumphant achievement of man's first steps on the moon. Thirty years ago today, my friend, Buzz Aldrin, landed the lunar module on the surface of the moon.

Buzz and I went through flying school together and flew combat in Korea together. In 1969, while I was in solitary confinement as a POW in Vietnam, Buzz flew over in orbit. We did not know about it over there, because the Vietnamese told us the Americans were not able to land on the moon. But, Buzz, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins proved them wrong, and we found out about it later.

Buzz was a fellow Air Force flying pilot, and he remembered us by wearing my POW bracelet and taking an American flag to the moon for all prisoners of war in Vietnam.

Today, Buzz Aldrin, I want to say thank you and thank you to all our astronauts as the Nation celebrates a tremendous accomplishment, a walk on the moon. Here's to the future, Buzz, and to the astronauts who are working to reach Mars. We salute you. God bless America.

U.N. PROPOSES TO TAX AMERICANS ON INTERNET USE

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. wants to tax Americans who use the Internet to pay for economic development in other countries. You heard it right. International bureaucracies at the United Nations are now proposing an e-mail tax on Americans.

This news simply boggles the mind. It is just not enough for liberals in Washington to tax everything that moves, every time you turn around, for every possible reason under the sun. The U.N., one of the biggest anti-Amer-

ican organizations around, now wants to pile on and really stick it to America where it hurts.

Our economy is booming, largely because of phenomenal growth in high technology sectors such as the Internet and computer technology. The U.N. does not think that is right, and it does not think it is fair that America is the world leader in Internet development. So they want to tax people who send e-mail.

This administration, which is the U.N.'s most enthusiastic backer, has responded in embarrassed silence. But Republicans think this latest U.N. outrage is truly outrageous, and it will stop it dead in its tracks.

SUPPORT TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to address the House regarding a bill which we will be discussing this morning and this afternoon, the Teacher Empowerment Act.

This is going to be one of the most important bills we consider this Congress, because our purpose here is to ensure that our children receive a good education. As important part of that is going to be a good education in science and mathematics. That is especially important for the future of our Nation.

As my colleagues probably know, we are not currently doing well in science education in the United States. Compared to other developed countries, we are near the bottom. That has to change. Part of this bill will ensure that our teachers' abilities to teach math and science will be enhanced and increased.

I can think of no better way of securing America's future than to vote for this bill, and thus improve the educational system of the United States, particularly with regard to mathematics and science education.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO KENNEDY FAMILY AND BESSETTE FAMILY

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my thoughts and prayers to the Kennedy and Besette families during this time of terrible tragedy.

As a New Yorker, I can tell my colleagues that John F. Kennedy, Jr. played a special role in our city. The way he conducted himself through the years with grace and dignity is something that we shall always remember.

Who can ever forget the little boy, John John, who saluted his father's casket on his third birthday. I just felt that, at this time, I wanted to express

the feelings of millions upon millions of Americans who really extend our grief and wishes and sadness to both the Kennedy and Besette families.

The Kennedy family has given so much to this country. It is very, very difficult for all of us during this time. I know that I express the feelings of all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I just felt it was very appropriate at this time to extend my heart and my hand to both families during this time of grief.

IMPROVE SCHOOLS BY EMPOWERING TEACHERS

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, a strong education system is one of the pillars of a strong America. Our youth deserve the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, and it is our responsibility to provide the necessary resources.

But before we challenge our students to be the best they can, we must first challenge our educators to be the best they can. As long as some classrooms continue to be staffed by ineffective teachers who do little more than satisfy a ratio, some students will suffer.

That is why I support the Teacher Empowerment Act that will be up today. This bill gives more flexibility in the use of Federal funds, allowing teachers to choose the training programs that best suit their classrooms needs without sacrificing accountability.

This bill also includes funding for new teachers, but the focus is on quality over quantity.

I urge my colleagues to empower our educators for a brighter future and to vote for passage of the Teacher Empowerment Act today.

DESIGNATING THE CHESTNUT- GIBSON MEMORIAL DOOR

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 158), as amended, designating the Document Door of the United States Capitol as the "Memorial Door".

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 158

Whereas on July 24, 1998, a lone gunman entered the United States Capitol through the door known as the Document Door, located on the first floor of the East Front;

Whereas Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut was the first United States Capitol Police officer to confront the gunman just inside the Document Door and lost his life as a result;

Whereas Detective John Michael Gibson also confronted the gunman and lost his life in the ensuing shootout;

Whereas the last shot fired by Detective John Gibson—his final act as an officer of the law—finally brought down the gunman and ended his deadly rampage;

Whereas while the gunman's intentions are not fully known, nor may ever be known, it is clear that he would have killed more innocent people if United States Capitol Police